

ACT or SAT?

What the two US college readiness exams tell us

Overview:

- What is the data, and where does it come from?
- How do the test scores relate to each other?
- How are the scores for subjects within a test related?
- How do participation rates relate to test scores?
- ... Wait, *why* are those related?

The Data

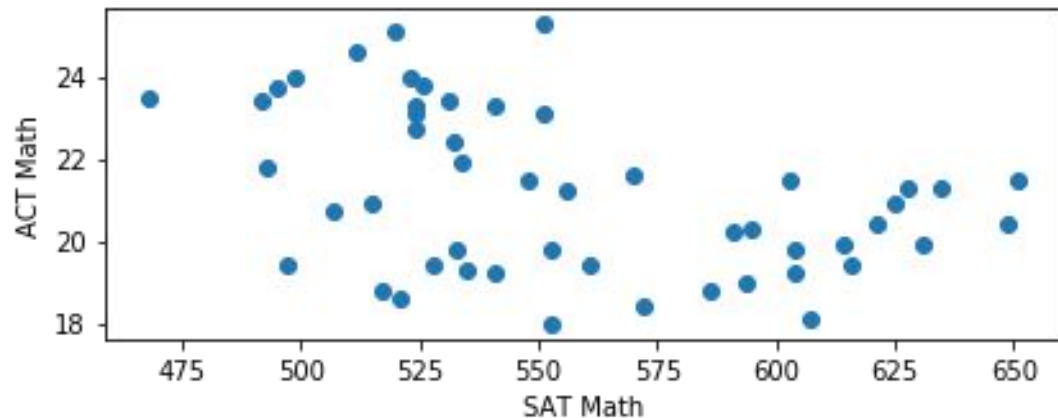
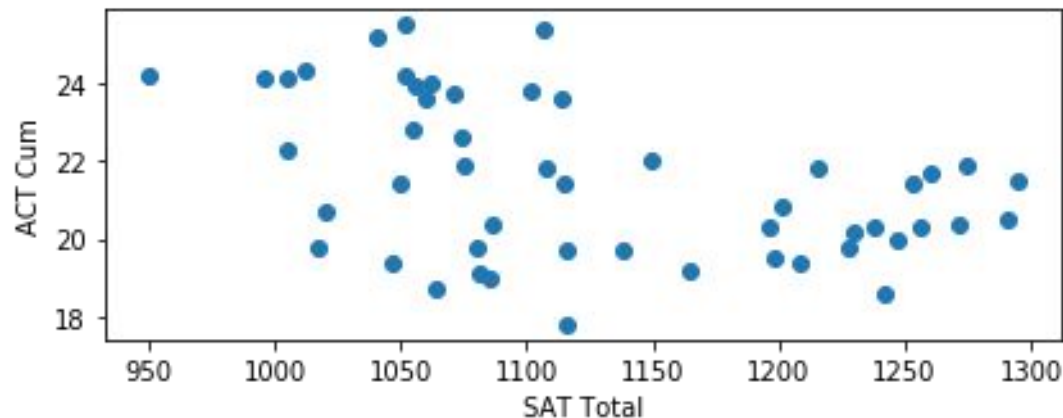
These data give average SAT and ACT scores by state, as well as participation rates, for the graduating class of 2017.

Maryland's SAT Math score and ACT Science score were impossibly low, so I found the data's source for reference and fixed the errors.

Scores: SAT vs ACT

Looks related, right?

WRONG

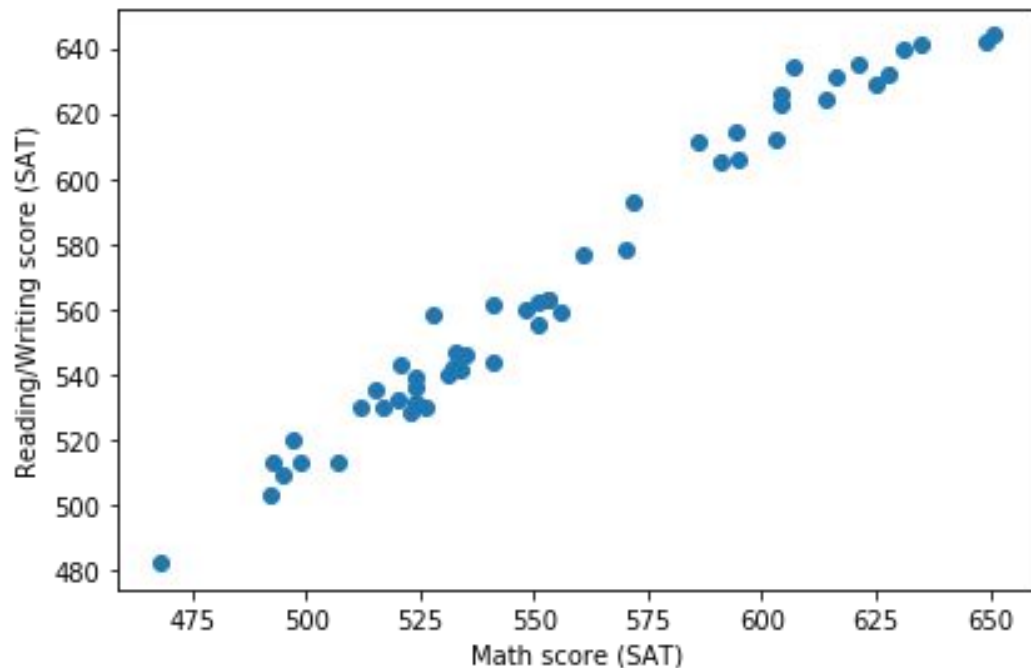


Scores Between Subjects

Positive relationship

But aren't people usually better at one subject over another?

- The dots represent states, not people



Participation vs Other Test scores

Wait, why does that
look positive?

-Selection bias!

